productivity factor, preservation of sharing, and tightening the exogenous cost test. Any overall rate level adjustments should be applied to cure existing discrimination in LEC access rates, and in particular in transport rates. See WilTel Comments at 25.

The Computer and Communications Industry Association's proposal to link elimination of sharing to LEC promises to wire all schools also should be rejected. Although the goal is admirable, CCIA's proposal amounts to taxation of one class of subscribers to benefit another class. The Commission should hesitate to require such massive investment in this fashion. Moreover, most of the costs of the wiring at issue are within the state jurisdiction or are unregulated inside wiring, and are thus for the most part are beyond the FCC's ability substantially to influence.

VI. The Price Cap New Services Test Must Be Revised to Require Uniform Costing Methodologies for All Services.

The LECs' attacks on the new services test and the requirements for longer notice periods for new services are, in reality, just disguised requests for further pricing flexibility. It is significant that the user groups commenting in this proceeding have not complained about having to wait to receive a new service because of the Commission's rules, nor have they asked for revisions to the test to make it easier for LECs to justify new service pricing. On the contrary, they urge the Commission to take a close look at the cost justification for new service prices and to take steps to prevent LEC price discrimination and "price goug[ing]." 14/

^{14/} Ad Hoc Telecommunications Users Committee Comments at 28-29 and Attachment A at 86-88; ICA Comments at 19-21 (advocating adoption of Commission standards for review of new services as means of speeding the tariff review process); Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of Consumer Advocate, Comments at 11 (encouraging Commission to ensure that "new services are actually

It is vitally important that the FCC continue to closely scrutinize the pricing of new services. The danger of anticompetitive and discriminatory pricing is perhaps greatest in connection with the introduction of new services. Other new services will be brand new -- video dialtone, for example, and interLATA service, if the MFJ restriction is someday lifted. The opportunity for pricing these new services in an anticompetitive or discriminatory fashion is substantial. LEC networks, with their vast fiber capacity and low incremental costs, are particularly susceptible to manipulation in the pricing of new services.

The LEC proposals to relax further the new services test (or to eliminate it entirely in "competitive market areas," as USTA proposes) completely ignore the danger of price discrimination, which is only exacerbated when the LECs introduce a new service. The rates for existing price cap services at least have the minimal protection of having come into price caps from a rate of return starting point. Prices for new services, in contrast, can be manipulated to serve the LECs' strategic goals from the beginning.

It is no answer to say, as some LECs do, that customers are protected against discrimination because, by definition, when a new service is introduced, the old service remains, and customers still will have the choice of the two. 15/ If the new and old services truly were interchangeable, there would be no reason to introduce the new service -- except as a means to avoid price cap restraints on pricing of existing services. If the two services are genuinely different, on the other hand, they will not be substitutes and the customers of the existing services will be unprotected from discrimination.

covering their direct costs and a fair share of joint and common costs such as overhead.")

^{15/} See, e.g., USTA Comments at 74; NYNEX Comments at 43-44.

The FCC should not accept the LECs' requests to shorten the time for examining these new services and to further liberalize the new services test. Instead, the FCC should take this opportunity to clarify the standard for evaluating new services and to make sensible and uniform the methodology for evaluating the reasonableness of pricing of all services. The Commission cannot evaluate discrimination claims with respect to new services without applying the same costing methodology to new and old services. If a different test applies to new services, discrimination between the rates for new and old services would almost by definition be the result, since rates for most old services were set using a fully distributed costing methodology.

In its opening comments, WilTel proposed that the Commission adopt the following five pricing principles to guide in evaluating challenges to pricing of new and existing services under price caps: 16/

- 1. Require the use of prospective (not historical) costs.
- 2. Use a long-run incremental cost approach to measure direct cost.
- 3. Require uniform overhead allocations across all price cap services.
- 4. Allow LECs pricing flexibility but only if accompanied by indexing.
- 5. Require uniform recovery of other common costs or subsidy amounts on a nondiscriminatory basis across all services.

Without further protections built into the new services test, such as those WilTel has proposed, the LECs will be able to circumvent the already limited price cap protections against discrimination by pricing new services in such a way

^{16/} See WilTel Comments at 30-33.

as to load their overhead costs onto services that do not face significant competitive pressures. Only by adopting a coherent and uniform set of principles for evaluating the lawfulness of LEC rates under price caps can the FCC have confidence that the pricing flexibility LECs already enjoy under price caps will not harm competition or result in rates that are unjust, unreasonable, or discriminatory in violation of the Communications Act.

CONCLUSION

The price cap review proceeding presents the Commission with a unique opportunity, at a critical time in the development of competitive markets, to ensure that consumers will have access to a wide array of services and that they will receive the benefits of competition across the full range of telecommunications services. But such an outcome is not automatic. LECs still possess substantial incentives and ability to engage in access price discrimination that could have the effect of inhibiting the development of competition by imposing a disproportionate share of common network costs on new entrants, smaller firms — and perhaps all vendors with whom the LECs compete now or in the future. The market for interstate access is not competitive today, and with the possible exception of interoffice transport and special access, is unlikely to be competitive even after local loop competition arrives, because the end user, not the access purchaser, is likely to be the entity making the choice of loop provider.

WilTel has proposed revisions to the price cap plan that would give LECs sufficient pricing flexibility to meet competition while protecting LEC customers who do not yet, or may never, have competitive alternatives. The Commission should adopt these revisions and should refuse to accept the LECs' proposals to expand the already substantial pricing flexibility they receive under

price caps. The Commission should also make other changes necessary to eliminate non-cost-based discrimination in LEC rates.

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APPENDIX 1/

 \mathbf{C}

		В	Transport Revenues as Percent of Total
	A	Other Interstate	Interstate Switched Access
	Transport <u>Revenues</u> <u>2</u> /	Switched Access Revenues <u>3</u> /	Revenues (A/(A&B))
Ameritech	\$ 88,133,198	\$ 909,856,986	8.8%
Bell Atlantic	104,967,065	1,157,841,736	8.3%
Bell South	129,104,963	1,499,545,979	7.9%
Nynex	124,437,986	1,653,210,331	7.0%
Pacific Bell	59,264,601	607,123,837	8.9%
Southwestern Bell	78,536,312	781,022,217	9.1%
US West	112,266,769	1,037,858,031	9.8%
TOTAL:	\$696,710,894	\$7,646,459,117	8.4%

^{1/} Source: Bell Operating Companies' 1994 Annual Access Filings scheduled to take effect July 1, 1994 (original and revised filings made as of June 21, 1994).

<u>2</u>/ Transport revenues include direct-trunked transport and tandem-switched transport.

^{3/} Other interstate switched access revenues include: carrier common line, local switching, residual interconnection, and directory assistance.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Vincent J. Summa, do hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing "Reply Comments of WilTel, Inc." was served by hand, on this 29th day of June, 1994, on the following:

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